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Ross, P. V. *Inheritance taxation; a treatise on legacy succession and inheritance taxes under the laws of Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, etc., and former acts of Congress with forms and full text of statutes.* (San Francisco: Bancroft-Whitney Co. 1912. Pp. lxix, 841. \$6.)

SAVARY, H. R. *L'alcool et les nécessités budgétaires.* Reprinted from the "Revue de Paris." (Coulommiers: Paul Brodard. 1912. Pp. 28.)

Believes that a reform of the tax on alcohol would not help in keeping the budget in balance; what is needed is suppression of fraud.

TETZLAFF, O. *Die Steuern und Schulden der preussischen Städte und grösseren Landgemeinden im Rechnungsjahr 1910 und die von ihnen im Rechnungsjahr 1911 erhobenen Zuschlüsse zu den staatlich-veranlagten direkten Steuern.* (Berlin: Verlag des königl. statist. Landesamts. 1912. Pp. 87. 2 m.)

— *Tax law of the state of New York . . . with all amendments made at the legislative session of 1912, completely indexed.* (New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co. 1912. Pp. 246. \$1.)

— *The economic position of Ireland and its relation to tariff reform. Memorandum by the Tariff Commission.* (London: King. 1912. Pp. 48. 3d.)

— *Taxes in force in England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, separately, for each year since 1823, specifying the principal rates and the yield of each tax.* (London: King. 1912. 1s. 2d.)

— *Militaires devant l'impôt. Droits et obligations des officiers et sous-officiers des armées de terre et de mer en matière de contributions directes et de taxes y assimilées.* (Paris: H. Charles-Lavauzelle. 1912. Pp. 76. 1.50 fr.)

### Population and Migration

*An Experiment in Alien Labor.* By E. GEORGE PAYNE. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1912. Pp. 72. \$7.50.)

This study in immigration, originally offered as a doctor's thesis in Germany and now translated and elaborated, presents a critical account of the experiment in the importation of Chinese laborers to the Transvaal in 1904, for indentured service in the mines. There is an interesting discussion of the reasons why native labor has always proved inadequate and unsatisfactory; a brief history of several investigative commissions that proposed no practicable plans of relief; and a slight review of the attempt to supply the increasing demand for cheap labor, created by the

opening of new mines, with Indian coolies. The conclusion is reached that "economic conditions make it impossible to use European white labor" and that the very cheapest grade of labor must be secured if the poorer mines are to be brought into production.

After a decade of public agitation and against considerable opposition, the government finally agreed to permit the mine owners to import Chinese laborers under a system of indenture and special administrative regulations. The coolies were to be strictly confined to the mines and compounds; allowed to perform only unskilled labor; and were forbidden to follow any trade, to acquire any property or to engage in any independent enterprise. The special ordinance passed for their control was directed at preventing escapes and at the suppression of insubordination.

Under this system about 55,000 Chinese were imported in the course of two years by the Agency of the Chamber of Mines and under the supervision of the Transvaal and Chinese governments, the agents receiving a definite sum for each laborer. The author concludes that from the standpoint of the employers, "the coolie demonstrated his competency—his efficiency was equal to that of the whites and double that of the natives"; but that from the standpoint of the state, there was reasonable ground for objection to them. They were producers but not to any great extent consumers, and as the stock in the Transvaal mines is held principally by foreigners, the greater part of the increase from Chinese labor went to foreign lands; and the Chinese were, moreover, unassimilable.

The reasons for the failure of the experiment, which ended abruptly in the repatriation of the coolies after two years, were many, but among those mentioned the more important seem to have been: the careless method of recruiting laborers; the selection of a superintendent who knew only the South China dialects while the coolies came chiefly from North China; and the lack of incentives to good work and good conduct on the part of the laborers—"There were only two possible places for the coolie in the Transvaal, the mine and the prison." Since the managers of the mines did not coöperate happily with the police and the government in the control of the workmen, the shrewd Chinese were able to take advantage of it. The causes of failure are briefly summarized as follows: "For an explanation of the failure of the experiment we must look to other causes than the character of those who took

service in the mines. The causes are to be found in the Importation Ordinance and the effect of its limitations upon the work of the Chinese. The difficulties in the Ordinance were emphasized, moreover, by the character of those who attempted to operate it."

It is unfortunate that in a paper which contains so much valuable information on labor conditions in the Transvaal the historical comparisons with Chinese labor elsewhere should be so incomplete as to be misleading, and a few of the statistics inaccurate. There is no mention of the coolie contract emigration of the last century with the results of which this indenture service might properly be compared; and no notice is taken of the difference in character and capacity between the free emigrants, such as went to California and Australia, and the desperately poor class who are the only laborers in China likely to accept contract service in a foreign land. A few errors in the figures of the Chinese in the United States appear (pp. 6, 7), some of which seem to have been derived from Von Walterhausen's article and which have been corrected by more modern writers. The bibliography does not mention Cowan and Dunlap's exhaustive bibliography of Chinese immigration (1909) which is indispensable to a thorough study.

MARY ROBERTS COOLIDGE.

#### NEW BOOKS

BENINI, R. *La demografia italiana nell' ultimo cinquantennio.* (Rome: R. Accad. dei Lincei. 1911. Pp. 72.)

CASTLE and others. *Heredity and eugenics.* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1912.)

DAVENPORT, C. B. *Heredity in relation to eugenics.* (New York: Holt. 1911. Pp. xi, 298, illus. \$2.)

To be reviewed.

MUSONI, F. *La popolazione in Friuli. Parte I. Denistà.* (Udine: tip D. Del Bianco. 1912. Pp. 50.)

RUSSELL, R. *Preventable cancer. A statistical research.* (London: Longmans. 1912. Pp. 167. 4s. 6d.)

Statistics of different classes of people in different countries have been examined; and it is shown that there is a greater increase of cancer in rich countries than in poor.

SCHOTT, S. *Die grossstädtischen Agglomerationen des Deutschen Reichs 1871-1910.* Schriften des Verbandes deutscher Städtestatistiker, 1. (Breslau: W. G. Korn. 1912. Pp. iv, 130. 3.40 m.)

To be reviewed.